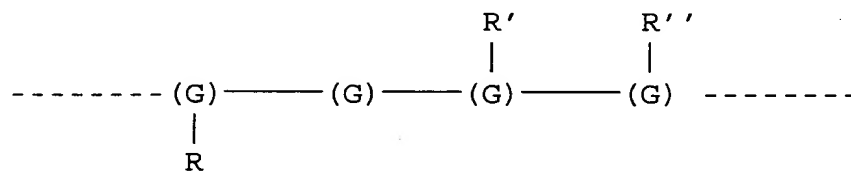


WE CLAIM:

1. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide which is a graft copolymer of a polysaccharide having anionic substituents with an ethylenically unsaturated monomer, the copolymer having a polysaccharide backbone carrying grafted hydrophobic vinyl polymeric groups derived from the ethylenically unsaturated monomer, and anionic substituents.
2. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein the anionic substituents are selected from groups which possess a carboxylate or a sulphonate head group.
3. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide having the general formula I:



wherein R is a hydrophobic vinyl polymer, R' and R'', which may or may not be the same, represent a group which possesses a carboxylic acid or a sulphonic acid head group or salts thereof and G is a monosaccharide or substituted monosaccharide.

4. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to claim 3, wherein R' and R'', which may or may not be the same, are selected from $-(CH_2-CHSO_3H)_n$ and $-(CH_2-CHSO_3^-M^+)_n$, wherein M is an alkali or alkaline earth metal and n has a value of from 5 to 100.

5. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to claim 3, wherein R' and R'', which may or may not be the same, are selected from $-R_3-COOH$ and $-R_3-COO^-M^+$, wherein R_3 is a C_1 to C_4 alkylene group and M is an alkali or alkaline earth metal.

6. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to claim 5, wherein $R' = R'' = -CH_2-COOH$ or its metal salt.

7. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to claim 3, wherein the amount of the hydrophobic vinyl polymer is 0.1-10% by weight of the polysaccharide.

8. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharides according to claim 7, wherein the amount of the hydrophobic vinyl polymer is 1-5% by weight of the polysaccharide.

9. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to claim 3, wherein the amount of anionic substituent is 0.1-10% by weight of the polysaccharide.

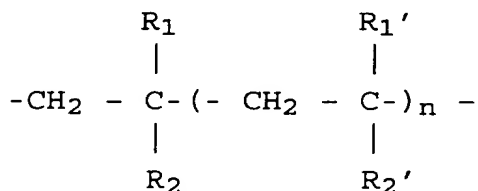
10. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to claim 9, wherein the amount of anionic substituent is 0.1-5% by weight of the polysaccharide.

5 11. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to claim 3, wherein the hydrophobic vinyl polymer has a molecular weight from 500 to 5,000,000.

10 12. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to claim 11, wherein the hydrophobic vinyl polymer has a molecular weight from 2000 to 500,000.

15 13. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to claim 12, wherein the hydrophobic vinyl polymer has a molecular weight from 5000 to 100,000.

20 14. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to claim 3, wherein R is an acrylic polymer, having the general formula II



wherein R_1 and R_1' may or may not be the same and represent $-\text{H}$, $-\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$.

and wherein R_2 and R_2' may or may not be the same and represent $-\text{COOCH}_3$, $-\text{COOC}_2\text{H}_5$, $-\text{COOC}_3\text{H}_7$.

15. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to
5 claim 14, wherein $R_1 = R_1' = \text{H}$ and $R_2 = R_2' = -\text{COOCH}_3$.

16. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to
10 claim 3, wherein the polysaccharide is selected from starch, modified starches, cellulose, guar gum, and tamarind gum.

17. Anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to
claim 16, wherein the polysaccharide is starch.

15 18. A process for the preparation of an anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to claim 3, comprising graft copolymerisation and anionic modification of a polysaccharide.

20 19. A process according to claim 18, comprising graft copolymerisation of the polysaccharide or the anionically modified polysaccharide using a redox initiator.

25 20. A process according to claim 19, comprising graft copolymerisation of the polysaccharide or the anionically modified polysaccharide using ferrous ammonium sulphate and hydrogen peroxide as the redox initiator.

21 A process according to claim 18, comprising anionic modification of the polysaccharide or the graft copolymerised polysaccharide using halocarboxylic acid or its salt or mixtures thereof.

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22. A process according to claim 21, wherein the halocarboxylic acid is chloroacetic acid.

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23. A process according to claim 18, comprising anionic modification of the polysaccharide or the graft copolymerised polysaccharide using a vinyl sulphonic acid or its salt or mixtures thereof.

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24. A fabric treatment composition comprising a fabric treatment agent and from 0.01 to 10 wt% of an anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to claim 3.

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25. A detergent composition comprising from 5 to 60 wt% of a deterative surfactant and from 0.01 to 10 wt% of an anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to claim 3.

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26. A detergent composition according to claim 25, which is a built laundry detergent composition comprising from 5 to 40 wt% of deterative surfactant, from 5 to 80 wt% of detergency builder, and from 0.01 to 10 wt% of an anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to claim 3.

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27. A detergent compositions according to claim 25, which comprises from 0.5 to 5 wt% of the anionic, hydrophobic polysaccharide according to claim 3.

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